**Basal Ban**

*52. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Basal Ban is under attack from Indian waste re-cycling industries;

(b) if so, the grounds therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken all necessary measures to give effect to this ban; and

(d) if yes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Representations have been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from the Indian waste re-cycling industries, especially zinc, lead and oil waste. Zinc waste recyclers have argued that zinc ash and skimmings since listed in List-B [wastes not to be regulated under Article I (1) (a) of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the Convention)] be placed under Open General Licence (OGL) by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. According to the Waste oil re-refiners, lubricating oil should be excluded from the category of "waste mineral oils" classified as hazardous.

(c) and (d) India signed the Convention on March 15, 1990 and ratified it on June 24, 1992. In the third meeting of the Conference of Parties held in 1995, the following decisions were taken:

(1) Each party listed in Annex VII (Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development, European Commission and Liechtenstein) of the Convention shall prohibit all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes which are destined for operations according to Annex IV A (operations which do not lead to the possibility of resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses) to States not listed in Annex VII.

(2) Each Party listed in Annex VII of the Convention shall phase out by 31st December, 1997, and prohibit as of that date, all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes under Article 1 (1) (a) of the Convention (waste considered as hazardous under the Convention) which are destined for operations according to Annex IV B (operations which may lead to resource recovery, recycling, clamation, direct reuse or alternative uses) to States not listed in Annex VII. Such transboundary movement shall not be prohibited unless the wastes in question are characterized as hazardous under the Convention.

The Fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-IV) to the Basel Convention will be held in February 1998. This Conference will adopt a list of wastes that would be covered by Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention and this will come into force after the COP-IV takes a decision in this matter.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has taken steps to ban imports of: [1] Cyanide waste, Mercury and Arsenic bearing wastes; and [2] import of wastes containing as constituents, or wastes bearing as contaminants, Beryllium, Selenium, Chromium (Hexavalent), Thallium and wastes containing pesticides, herbicides and insecticides and their intermediates/residues thereof including out-dated pesticides. Further action in this direction would be based on decision taken in COP-IV.

**Establishment of Mahila Shikshan Kendras**

*53. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSKs) for illiterate women who have never joined the formal school system in the State of Gujarat;